



Weekly Information & Communication



**January 12, 2015**

## **Spring Conference Save-the-Date**

Our Spring Conference will be held April 7 & 8, 2015 in Helena at the Wingate Hotel. The agenda is still being developed, but please [register now](#). We anticipate having a full day on Tuesday the 7th and wrapping up mid-afternoon on Wednesday the 8th. The state rate at the hotel will be available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night for those who will need to travel further distances.

You may book your room anytime between now and March 15, 2015 by calling 406-449-3000 or emailing Tiffanie Zavarelli at [Agm@winwingatehelena.com](mailto:Agm@winwingatehelena.com), identify yourself as being with "The Montana WIC Program". The state will reimburse costs for two staff members from each local agency (required attendance); however, we encourage more participation where possible. There will be content and training related specifically to retailer activities, so it is highly encouraged to send your LARC. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Local Agency Conference Call**

Please see the [minutes](#) from our conference call last Thursday. Thank you all for attending! Our next call is scheduled for March 5, 2015 beginning at 9:00 am.

## **Reports Available**

[Participation Report December 2014](#)

[Breastfeeding & Peer Counselor Report December 2014](#)

[Benefits Issued & Redeemed Report November 2014](#)

## **Educational Sign for New Size of Baby Food**

You may use [this sign](#) in clinics to let participants know the Beech-Nut 4.25oz jars of baby are **NOT** WIC approved. If you would like an editable copy, please email [Leah](#).

## **2013 mPINC Results for Montana**

The Center for Disease Control released the [2013 mPINC results of state data](#). The survey has been conducted every two years since 2007. The mPINC is a survey of infant feeding care processes, policies, and staffing expectations in maternity care settings. Nationwide, more than 83% of all eligible facilities choose to participate. The information can be used for future planning of improvement in maternity care services.

Maternity care settings that responded to the survey will receive their own results compared to peer facilities. As of Friday, January 9, 2015, these results had not been posted to their website. [Find out more](#) about the mPINC survey and prior year results.

## New Mobile App: MomMeter

Do moms ask you how much alcohol is safe to drink while breastfeeding? Coming soon from Hale Publishing, the [Mom Meter app](#)! It uses a specific algorithm. The woman inputs the type and amount of alcohol she drinks and the app generates a recommended time to wait before breastfeeding! The app will be available through iTunes in early 2015 for \$1.99.

## Breastfeeding Duration and Weight Gain Trajectory in Infancy

Published in [Pediatrics](#) in the January 2015 issue, [the article](#) reports on the study of 595 infants followed through age 2 years, comparing their obesity risk, duration of breastfeeding and trajectory of weight gain. This article is worth 1 WIC CEU, submit the [WIC CEU Post Article form](#) to [Chris](#).

## Obama Signs National Defense Authorization Act with Breastfeeding Support Amendment for TRICARE

The TRICARE Moms Improvement Act was signed into law as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4435). This added breastfeeding support (supplies, counseling and services) similar to requirements for private insurance under the Affordable Care Act to be included in TRICARE. TRICARE is the federal health insurance for military families.

Representative Lois Capps (CA-24) introduced the amendment and spearheaded efforts for the passage of the provision. Capps strongly believed it was important for military moms and families to have resources like non-military families with private insurance available if they chose to breastfeed.



## USDA Certification Policy Tip of the Week

**Question:** Can an applicant show their paystub (or other documentation) electronically via their phone.  
Example: An applicant/participant showing a photo of their paystub on their iPhone or logging into a website to show the document.

**Answer:** Assuming the information on the pay stub or other documentation is legible and meets the same State agency requirements for paper documentation, there is no reason for a local agency to refuse an electronic copy. (Reference: Guidance from HQ). According to Montana policy, the electronic copy must be able to be printed and scanned into the participant's folder.



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